

The bridge collapse of August 1, 2007, has served as a wake-up call for many policy-makers and leaders around the country. We must take the lessons of the I-35W Bridge, and use them to create an accountable and reliable bridge program that guards the safety of all users. The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act of 2007, which Mr. DEFAZIO and I introduce today, begins the process of ensuring that such a tragedy will not happen again.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST  
COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Southeast Community Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Southeast Community Fire Department is made up of 41 volunteers, including 9 board members, and serves over 10,000 people. The department responds to fires, motor vehicle crashes, medical calls, and other service calls. In 2005, the Southeast Community Fire Department responded to nearly 450 calls.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Southeast, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Southeast Community Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Mickey Summers, Asst. Chief Henry Thayer, Capt. Terry Turner, Engineer William Summers,

Rodney Pryor, Raymond Summers, Billy Templeton, Randy Thaxton, Sam Clark, Aaron Bruce, David Kellogg, Charlie Johnson, Ken Weidner, Tommy Dale, Rich Goddard, Sonny Briggance, Luke McKnight, Brandon Clark, Rick Donley, Darrell Templeton, Chasey McKnight, Johnny Smith, James Civils, Lee Daniels, Steven Johnson, Patrick Foster, Aaron Kinser, Jamie Blair, John Reeser, Micheal Webb, and Kyle Withers.

HONORING THE SOUTH CARTHAGE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the South Carthage Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The South Carthage Fire Department has operated from the same fire station, located on Main St., next to City Hall, since it was founded in 1963. The department has serviced the community for 44 years.

Without volunteer fire halls, like South Carthage, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the South Carthage Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Ed Lankford, Asst. Chief Tony Hembree, Captain A Team Blythe Myers, Bobby Hewitt, Richard Ellenburg, Scottie Grisham, David McCall, Captain B Team Grover Ellenburg Jr., John Antle, Todd Currie, Tracy Fields, Chris Dennis,

Alicia Fields, Derrick Brooks, David Brown, Brian Owensby, Aaron Sterling, Ricky Slack, Safety and Training Officer Terry Wood, Kennie Bryant, and James Way. Reserve Fire Department Members: Steven Myers, Chris Fields, Jonas Bullington, and Johnny Richardson.

HONORING THE SMITH COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Smith County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Smith County Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1986. Volunteers contracted a building, and the community bought a surplus Tennessee Air National Guard Dodge power wagon with a 250-gallon fiberglass tank. The department has nine active members.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Smith County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Smith County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Ronnie Jackson, Asst. Chief John Robinson, Gerald Bush, George Eisenbach, Josh Collins, Mike Posey, Jake Watts, Eddie Barnes, and Josh Tisdale.